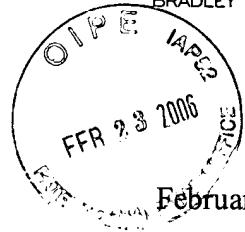




Bradley Arant

BRADLEY ARANT ROSE & WHITE LLP



February 23, 2006

**EV387961373US**

**Via Express Mail No. EV387961373US**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

02-24-06

IFW  
AS

ONE FEDERAL PLACE  
1819 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203-2119  
205.521.8000 FAX 205.521.8800  
WWW.BRADLEYARANT.COM

Nathan W. Johnson

Direct Dial: 205.521.8369  
Direct Fax: 205.488.6369  
NJohnson@BradleyArant.com

Application Serial Number: 10/685,914  
Filed: October 15, 2003  
Inventor: Copeland  
Group Art Unit: 3679  
Examiner: Bochna

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Dear Sirs:

The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is submitted under 37 CFR 1.97(c). (This filing is believed to occur before the mailing of a final office action or other action that closes prosecution on the merits). A Credit Card authorization is provided enclosed herewith for the \$180 filing fee.

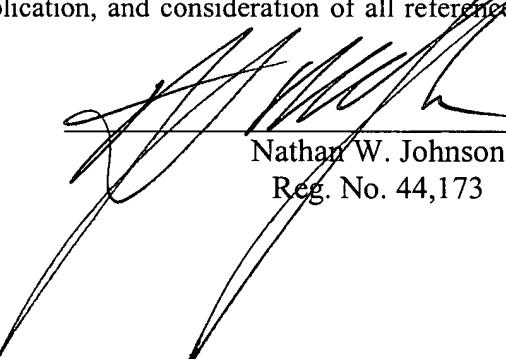
All references on the enclosed are believed to previously have been properly submitted (see IDS submissions dated December 30, 2005, July 19, 2005, March 4, 2005, and March 3, 2005), but a review of the PTO PAIR records fails to confirm consideration on the record. In an abundance of caution, we herewith RESUBMIT these references in this IDS to ensure consideration.

Applicant by submitting the references taken alone or in combination neither represents nor admits that such references anticipate or render obvious the present invention. It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application, and consideration of all references in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

02/27/2006 11:10:00 180.00

01 FC:1806

01

  
Nathan W. Johnson  
Reg. No. 44,173

**OF COUNSEL**

Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP  
1819 Fifth Avenue North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203-2104  
Tel: 205-521-8369 Fax: 205-488-6369

ENEpNA

02/27/2006 HTECKLU1 00000018 10685914

01 FC:1806

180.00 0P

BIRMINGHAM

CHARLOTTE

HUNTSVILLE

JACKSON

MONTGOMERY

WASHINGTON, DC

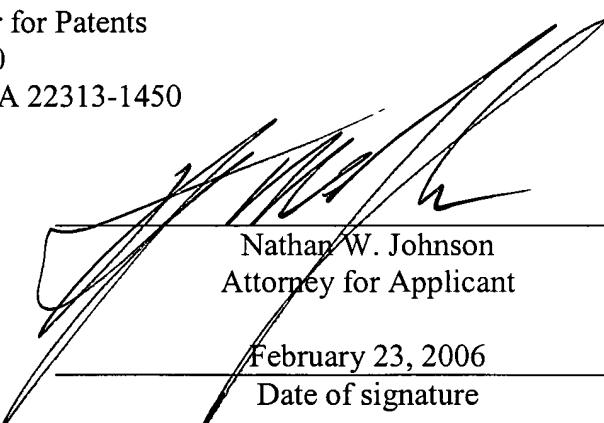


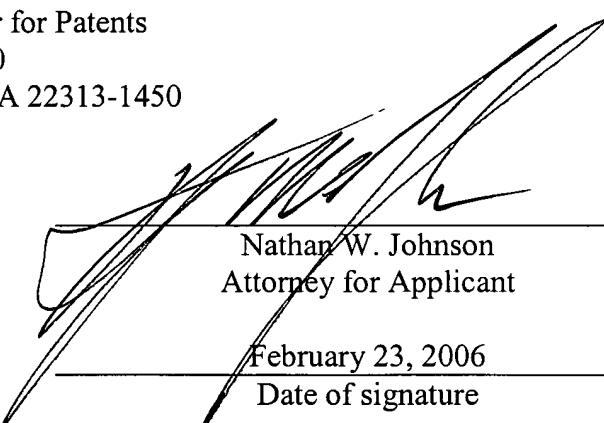
### **CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that the documents referred to on the first page are enclosed with this letter, together with a Credit Card Authorization form, and that the same are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV387961373US Post Office to Addressee, in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

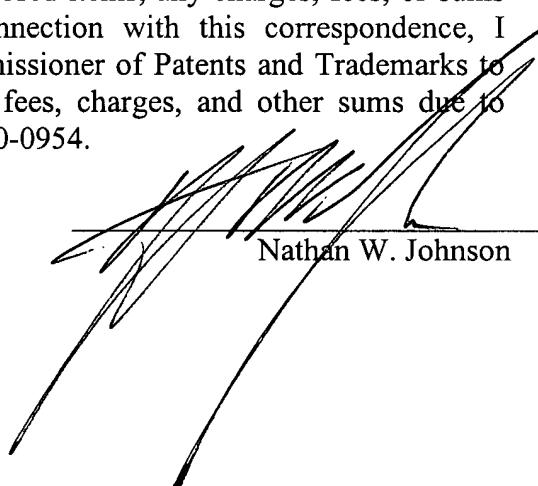
on February 23, 2006.

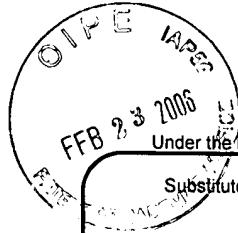
  
Nathan W. Johnson  
Attorney for Applicant

  
February 23, 2006  
Date of signature

### **AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

If, after processing the enclosed items, any charges, fees, or sums due remain unpaid in connection with this correspondence, I hereby authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge all such remaining fees, charges, and other sums due to Deposit Account Number 50-0954.

  
Nathan W. Johnson



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

2/23/06

PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/685,914
Filing Date	10-15-2003
First Named Inventor	Copeland
Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	David E Bochna

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1 of 1

Attorney Docket Number

### U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 3400950 A	09-10-1968	Quebe, et al	
		US- 3731955 A	05-08-1973	Borsum, et al	
		US- 5176413 A	01-05-1993	Westman	
		US- 5609368 A	03-11-1997	Maki, et al	
		US- 6921114 B1	07-26-2005	Washburn, et al	
		US- 2004/0155458 A1	08-12-2004	Holmes	
		US- 2005/0006855 A1	01-13-2005	Holmes	
		US- 2005/0067836 A1	03-31-2005	Copeland	
		US- 1930194	10-10-1933	Dillon	
		US- 2473046	06-14-1949	Adams	
		US- 3582112	06-01-1971	Pico	
		US- 3877733	04-15-1975	Straub	
		US- 5398980	03-21-1995	Hunter, et al	
		US- 3733093	05-15-1973	Seiler	
		US- 4805932	02-21-1989	Imhof, et al	
		US-			

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		PCT Search Report re PCT/US04/31595	12-19-2005	Copeland/U.S. Pipe		
		WO 03/050421 A2	06-19-2003	United States Pipe & Foundry		
		WO 2005/031174 A2	04-07-2005	United States Pipe & Foundry		
		WO 2005/047745 A2	05-26-2005	United States Pipe & Foundry		
		WO 01/13023	02-22-2001	Saint-Gobain Pipelines PLC		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.